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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Design and Initial Construction of Bamyan and Dushi Road

OVERVIEW

Roads have a tremendous social and economic impact and increase communities' access to health care, education, markets, and government services. The U.S. Government is designing an upgrade to the national highway from the city of Bamyan in Bamyan Province to the city of Dushi in Baghlan Province.

This strategically important road serves as an alternate route for travel between the north and central provinces of Afghanistan, providing a much needed alternative to the Salang Pass and Salang Tunnel. Extreme weather and deteriorated road and tunnel conditions at the Salang Tunnel are the cause of considerable delays and numerous road casualties during the winter months. In its present condition, the Bamyan-Dushi Road is virtually impassable during the winter months; during summer months, it offers a very slow and arduous detour. The rehabilitated Bamyan-Dushi Road will provide a year-round alternative between Kabul and the provinces in the north, and facilitate local travel in Baghlan and Bamyan provinces.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Implement roughly 25 community projects along the road that include bridges, micro-hydro power, upgrades to school and basic health clinics, and improvements to water supply and flood control
- Conduct preliminary construction activities at seven selected villages that advance the overall construction schedule, provide training opportunities for the local workforce, and build rapport and acceptance of the project with the communities along the alignment

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Designed an asphaltic concrete 151 kilometer road from Bamyan to Dushi in accordance with the Ministry of Public Works' *Interim Road and Highway Standards* and the American Association of State Highways and Transportation Officials highway design standards
- Improved the existing road surface through a gravel upgrade and winter maintenance program, dramatically increasing travel speeds and reducing travel time and vehicle wear and tear
- Completed a value engineering review of phase one and identified \$2.5 million in savings
- Conducted maintenance and snow clearing on the road during the past two winter seasons and performed emergency repairs to keep the road passable